

IMPROVING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS AND CONTINUUM OF CARE

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has been providing funding for homeless programs since 1987 to communities across the nation that are working to combat homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, the National Partnership constellated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has brought together 20 federal agencies, 53 governors of states and territories, and over 215 mayors in the same national strategy to respond to chronic homelessness with both public and private sector involvement ; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to homelessness and have affirmed the work of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in partnership with mayors; and

WHEREAS, the current Continuum of Care competitive programs process could provide even more flexibility to communities to help combat homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Continuums are now subject to six different statutory program match requirements; and

WHEREAS, homelessness prevention is vital but is not an eligible statutory activity in HUD's competitive homeless programs; and

WHEREAS, HUD annually reviews and ranks approximately 500 Continuum of Care plans and 6,000 individual project applications process which requires over six months to complete; and

WHEREAS, both the House and Senate of the US Congress are considering in a bipartisan manner, federal legislation that would consolidate the competitive Continuum of Care homelessness programs to become a single program and thereby streamline the process of awarding federal homelessness grants; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the implementation of this resolution that would afford the Department the ability to streamline the awarding process and ensure that communities receive their awarded federal funds months earlier; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes any net funding reductions for these consolidated

homelessness programs and that none should result from this comprehensive consolidation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the match process currently in place should be simplified and made consistent across activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prevention should become an eligible activity providing continuums resources to address the root causes of homelessness and to ultimately reduce the number of homeless persons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this consolidation would ensure broader participation at the local level and better assist cities, as they continue to help solve issues affecting homelessness throughout the nation.